

Application No. 10/668,339

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-19 were rejected. By way of this amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 remain pending. Claims 2, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14 have been cancelled. Note cancelled claim 12 was never presented as claims 13-19 were inadvertently misnumbered. For simplicity omitted claim 12 should simply be considered cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11 and 15-19 have been amended.

In the specification, the housing has been amended such that it is described as a four sided structure having at least one aperture and one hook per side. This is as shown in each of the figures and is fully supported by the description as well as the drawings. This amendment to the specification corresponds to the amendment to the claims and reflects applicant's intention to provide an attachment without significant leakage (para 0014). Also in paragraph [0016], referring to figures 2 and 3, it is stated "the slots 30 line the periphery of the housing 26. In Fig 3 a slot 33 is located on the side of the housing 26". Similarly in paragraph [0017] it is noted the slots surround the airbag housing opening. Accordingly, it is noted that each side must exhibit one slot 30 or 33 for the slots to line the periphery of or surround a four sided structure as illustrated. Accordingly, as noted in paragraph [0019], eight slots and eight hooks were employed to secure the airbag to the housing as shown three on each long side and one at each end. Applicant's amendment to the specification is clearly supported by the original application and no new matter has been added. The amendment is consistent with the claims as now presented in this amendment.

Independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended incorporating the features of claims 2, 6 and 7 into claim 1 and claims 13 and 14 into claim 11.

The examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8-13 and 15-19 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Bohn US 6,273,455. Also claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Ford et al US 6,846,005.

The examiner noted the cited references did not recite the use of hooks. This amendment incorporates hooks on each side of the housing and therefore these rejections are rendered moot.

The examiner rejected claim 7 and claim 14 under USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bohn in view of Nariyasu (US 6,092,833). Nariyasu teaches a mounting frame having hooks connected to an inflator housing 48, the flaps 78 through 84 are then sandwiched between the flange 64 and the collar portion wherein bolts 92 are screwed up into nuts 72 through bolt holes 56, 90. In this way the airbag is fixedly

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connected to the retainer 40.

Applicant's claimed invention employs no frame nor bolts and nuts to hold the airbag sandwiched between the frame and the housing. In fact, applicant's clever use of apertures and hooks integral to the housing on each side eliminates all these separate components.

Bohn relies on pins and an external slotted clamping feature on the housing. Applicant reduces these two holding features to a hook that is clearly simpler and more secure. Bohn in combination with Nariyasu neither teaches nor suggests such a combination. In fact Nariyasu appears to suggest bolts and nuts in addition to the hooks are required. This is true because the hooks 68 shown in US 6,092,833 extend as tabs or appendages above the retainer and thus cannot be expected to carry the loads exerted by a deploying airbag. Applicant's hooks as shown are on the sides of the housing and are designed to take the loads without breaking. The hooks on applicant's invention as claimed are protected by the sides from the deploying airbag. The prior art hooks of US 6,092,833 are projecting into the path of the expanding airbag and prone to bending forces. Applicant contends the claimed combination as found in amended claims 1 and 11 are neither taught nor suggested in the cited reference.

For the reasons stated above, applicant respectfully requests the examiner to withdraw the rejections and allow the application to pass to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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